Completed HLCT Activities

A number of activities were completed as part of the pre-conveyance process with the Army. These activities included;

- Conducting a helicopter survey of the lakebed to identify potential environmental conditions.
- Conducting an ASTM 1527-00 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) of the Primary Parcel and surrounding area.
- Conducting a Limited Phase II ESA of a former aerial gunnery range located on the lakebed for potential lead impact in soil and investigating groundwater conditions downgradient from an area impacted by historic disposal of surplus munitions via detonation. Groundwater samples obtained from temporary wells were analyzed for RCRA Metals, TNT, RDX, Gasoline Range Organics (GRO), Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) and Perchlorates. Final results from the lab indicate that groundwater samples from all 4 wells contained non-detectable levels of TNT, RDX, GRO, TPH, and Perchlorates.
- Developing a draft Implementation Plan for the preservation of historic and cultural resources located on the perimeter of the lakebed.
- Developing and posting warning signs on the boundary between the Primary and OE Parcels under contract with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- Meeting with Lassen County, local law enforcement, emergency services, California Fish and Game and Susanville Bureau of Land Management to develop relationships with the community leaders and learn what their desires are for the Honey Lake Land Parcel.
- Hiring Site Manager and Community Relations officer, Thomas Yssel of Janesville, California and Tim Garrod of Doyle, California.
- Leasing Office space in Herlong, California from Lassen County.

On-Going HLCT Activities

A number of activities will be completed as part of the Conveyance process with the California State Lands Commission (CSLC). These activities include;

- Program Management
  - √ Project Management (budget, schedule, quality and safety)
  - √ Site Manager (day-to-day operations)
  - √ Community Relations
- Technical Work
  - √ Coordination with Local, State and Federal Agencies
  - √ Prepare Honey Lake Management Plan
  - √ Habitat and Endangered Species Management
    - ▫ Develop and implement a Conservation Strategy for the Carson Wandering Skipper Butterfly
    - ▫ Perform Protocol Surveys to identify Butterfly habitat
    - ▫ Management of invasive plant species that could negatively impact flowering plants used by the Butterfly for food
    - ▫ Install fencing around critical Butterfly habitat
    - ▫ Sponsor research of Butterfly biology and ecology
    - ▫ Perform Habitat Enhancement
  - √ State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Covenant
    - ▫ Develop a Preservation Plan
    - ▫ Implement Preservation Plan

View of northeast shoreline across lakebed

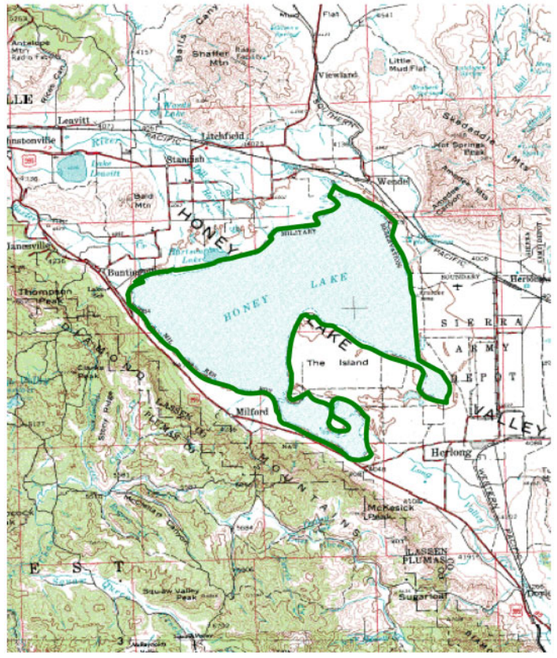
Honey Lake Primary Parcel Conservation Conveyance

FACT SHEET

Community Meeting

March 17, 2004
1:30 p.m.

The Honey Lake Project represents the nation's first Conservation Conveyance conducted under Federal legislation passed late 2002. The enabling legislation allows the military services to transfer surplus property to not-for-profit groups for natural resource conservation purposes. The Department of the Army (Army) is the first services branch to do so, with the conveyance of the Honey Lake Primary Parcel in Herlong, CA. The Conveyance Agreement calls for transfer of the Honey Lake Primary Parcel (roughly 57,632 acres) to the not-for-profit Center for Urban Watershed Renewal (CUWR). CUWR has teamed with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) (another not-for-profit group), Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) and The Bioengineering Group (TBG), a Baker subcontractor, to conduct the work. The four organizations formed the Honey Lake Conservation Team (HLCT) to pursue and conduct this project. CUWR Honey Lake, LLC has taken ownership of the Honey Lake Primary Parcel and accepted a number of obligations from the Army. The HLCT has committed to complete these obligations (e.g., management of an endangered butterfly, the Carson Wandering Skipper and conservation of historic and cultural resources) in order to prepare the Honey Lake Primary Parcel for transfer to the State of California. During the pre-conveyance phase of the property transfer from the Army to CUWR Honey Lake, LLC the HLCT met and worked with the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop a management plan regarding the Carson Wandering Skipper. The HLCT also met and worked with the Department of Toxic Substance Control to determine the boundary of the Old Ordnance and Explosive area. As part of both the pre-conveyance and on-going activities the HLCT has worked with and will continue to work with the Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the local Remedial Action Board (RAB), local tribal contacts, county government and law enforcement officials. As part of the conveyance agreement, the Army has provided the HLCT with a negotiated amount of funds to complete the necessary environmental studies and actions to transfer the property to the State of California. These funds have been placed into a custodial account dedicated to completing the work required to enable property transfer to the California State Lands Commission within five years.



Honey Lake Area Map - Herlong, California

"The Honey Lake Project represents the nation's first Conservation Conveyance conducted under legislation passed late 2002."

The Honey Lake Conservation Team:

The Center for Urban Watershed Renewal
redefining ecological sustainability for urban environments

THE BIOENGINEERING GROUP, INC.

Baker
ChallengeUs.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

Contact Information
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Herlong, CA 96113
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Site Description

Honey Lake Project site (Property) is a temporal lakebed, consisting of approximately 57,632 acres that is primarily supplied by surface flows from the Susan River, which enters the lake at the north shore, and the intermittent Long Valley Creek, which enters from the south. Other inflows include small intermittent streams primarily to the west and north, and from thermal springs to the northeast. The temporal lakebed is in the general shape of a butterfly with a large intrusive peninsula that partially divides the lake into eastern and western sections. The peninsula is commonly referred to as "the Island." (See map on front cover.)

The Honey Lake Valley is surrounded by the Diamond Mountains to the west, the Fort Sage and Virginia Mountains to the south, the Amedee and Skedaddle Mountains to the northeast, and Shaffer Mountain, Antelope Mountain, Susanville Peak and Bald Mountain to the north and northwest.

Rural residences, ranches, pasture land, and agricultural fields (primarily hay) make up the majority of land use in the areas south, west and north of the Property. Several small rural communities are located to the west and north of the Property and include Herlong Junction, Milford, Buntingville, Edgemont, Standish, and Wendel.

The communities of Herlong and Patton Village are located to the southeast of the Property and west of the Sierra Army Depot (SIAD). Both of these communities are strongly associated with supporting SIAD. A new Federal corrections facility is being constructed just north of CA A-25 and east of Poleline Road, the local access road to the Property. On the southern portion of the Island a water treatment facility is being built to treat local community wastewater.

The northern shore also borders the Honey Lake State Wildlife Preserve Fleming and Dakin Units. The Honey Lake State Wildlife Preserve consists of land, levees, and groundwater wells, used for the conservation of native plant and animal species and habitat for migratory birds.

View northeast from Island toward SIAD

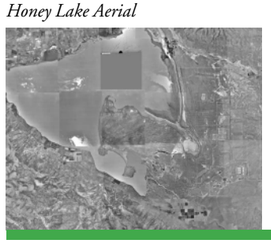
Three geothermal wells are located to the northeast of the Property and east to northeast of the Honey Lake State Wildlife Preserve. The wells are the Wendel Hot Springs, an unnamed spring north of Wendel Hot Springs (associated with the H. L. Power Company), and the Amedee Hot Springs to the southeast. The springs are being used for geothermal electrical generation and have associated buildings, storage, distribution and production equipment.

SIAD occupies the remainder of the eastern adjoining area to the Property. SIAD consists of large open plains, a former airstrip, explosive and munitions detonation areas, buildings, storage areas, rifle ranges, sanitary waste disposal areas, and other military operations.

Current and Past Uses of the Property

Prior to being transferred to the Army in the 1930's the lakebed was used for hunting, agricultural purposes, commercial activities and recreational activities.

Honey Lake Aerial



Historical records indicate the Property has been owned and used by the United States since June 12, 1933, when the State of California ceded use of Honey Lake to the United States for purposes of aerial training, military camps and other Federal purposes (CA Senate Bill No. 573. Chapter 845; 1933). A portion of the lake area was reportedly used as an aerial gunnery range in 1931 and 1932.

Briefly in the 1940's and 1950's the eastern shore Ordinance and Explosive (OE) area of the Honey Lake land parcel was used for demolition and testing of munitions. A wide range of ordnance were detonated or burned, including bombs, mines, rockets, phosphorus shells, mortar shells and artillery shells. In 1992 an engineering firm contracted by the Army recovered over 3,500 pounds of munitions fragments within the OE area. The Army is currently conducting a Time Critical Removal Action to remove remaining ordnance and explosives contamination within approximately 4,486 acres of the OE Area.

Currently the primary uses of the lakebed appear to consist of free-range cattle and horse grazing, and hay fields along the shoreline.

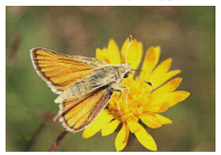
Endangered Species Activities

There are two principal ecological concerns regarding the Honey Lake Site that will be managed during HLCT stewardship. These include the preservation of the Carson Wandering Skipper Butterfly (Pseudocopaeodes eunus obscurus) and the control and limitation of the invasive plant species, commonly known as tall white top (Lepidium latifolium). Each of these is briefly discussed below.

Carson Wandering Skipper

The Carson Wandering Skipper (CWS) butterfly was listed as an endangered species on August 7, 2002 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Prior to European settlement, this butterfly was probably relatively widely distributed throughout northeastern California and northwestern Nevada. It is now relegated to three small popula-

Carson Wandering Skipper



tions: one in Washoe County, NV, where five individuals were located in 2001, and two in adjacent Lassen County, CA, where just "a few" individuals were seen. In a survey of potential habitat in Lassen County, Xerces Society scientists found only one individual.

In July 1993, the Army released two reports performed by Earth Tech detailing the suitability of the vegetation and results of protocol surveys performed for the CWS. During the protocol survey a total of 33 individual CWS were sited throughout the protocol study area.

The Carson Wandering Skipper is a small tawny orange butterfly. The species is closely associated with its larval hostplant, saltgrass (Distichlis spicata var. stricta) saltgrass. The adults feed on small flowering plants near the larval hostplant.

The USFWS announcement for the listing of the Carson wandering skipper can be found at the following URL: *http://news.fws.gov/newsreleases/R1/424DD11E-BB39-4295-B84FC8BA4D5A1D07.html*

Fact Sheet Source: *http://www.xerces.org/Endangered/Carsonwanderingskipper.htm*

Tall White Top

Tall white top, (Lepidium latifolium) also known as perennial pepperweed, is a multi-stemmed non-native plant that grows three to eight feet tall with a heavy, sometimes woody, crown and a spreading underground root system. Stems and leaves are dull gray-green and waxy, sometimes with reddish spots. The tiny white flowers occur in dense clusters at the tops of the stems. Flowering from May to July, plants produce many small, roundish, light brown fruits.

Tall white top invades brackish to saline or alkaline wetlands throughout California, from the coast to the interior and north and eastward into the Great Basin and Columbia Basin. It also is found in native (unplanted) hay meadows and as a weed in agricultural fields where the soil is slightly alkaline or saline. It has been found in all counties in California except Del Norte, Humboldt, and Imperial and is well established in marshes of the San Francisco Bay and Delta (May 1995). It is also found east of the Sierra Nevada in native hay meadows and managed alkaline wetlands, such as at Honey Lake, and in the Owens Valley near Bishop. Its range in southern California is not well documented.

According to observations of wildlife area managers and others, within the last fifteen years perennial pepperweed populations in California have expanded, and the plant has significantly increased its overall range. In California, the plant typically grows in full sun in heavy, moist soils that are often saline or alkaline, but it also grows in drier sites and on other soil types. Its precise tolerance limits for aridity, alkalinity, and salinity are unknown. In Wyoming, perennial pepperweed is found on soils of high alkalinity (pH 9.2), and it appears to tolerate, but not require, saline conditions. It is found in all western states, and there are large infestations in Nevada.

Tall white top is an aggressive invader of coastal and interior wetlands throughout California. In waterfowl nesting areas it out competes grasses that provide food for waterfowl. It also is an aggressive invader of some agricultural lands in the Central Valley and east of the Sierra Nevada. In Lassen County it has become widely established in native (unplanted) hay meadows, reducing the value of the hay crop

Seedlings grow rapidly and can produce flowering stems the first year. In fall and winter, aerial stems die back to the ground, creating a thick thatch of dead stems in heavily infested areas (Young et al. 1995). In early spring, new shoots begin to form from the rootstocks. A single intact root crown can produce several flowering stems. New plants readily grow from pieces of rootstock less than one-third of an inch (0.8 cm) in diameter and less than one inch (2.5 cm) long.

Heavy infestations of tall white top are difficult to control. Field observations suggest that plants may not tolerate an extended period of flooding during the growing season. Herbicides, especially when integrated with mechanical methods, are effective for

Tall White Top

controlling tall white top infestations. There are several herbicides available for use on tall white top, but there are restrictions on their use in specific environments.

Fact Sheet Sources: *http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/datastore/detailreport.cfm?usernumber=58&surveynumber=182*

http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/weedinfo/LEPIDIUM2.html

http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/pepperweed/pepperweed4.html